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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 FBO-01 A-01 SS-15 SY-10 ABF-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-13 NSC-10 RSR-01

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FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2345
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EB, US
SUBJECT: GDR PROPOSALS FOR CHANCERY/RESIDENCE SITES

1. WE ARE TRANSMITTING HEREWITH DESCRIPTIVE DATA ON THE VARIOUS CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE SITES SHOWN BY GDR TO US ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM DURING TECHNICAL TALKS IN EAST BERLIN AUGUST 27-31. PHOTOS OF EACH SITE WILL BE POUCHED.

I. CHANCERY SITES

A) KARPLATZ 7 (BERLIN 1475)-FIVE STORY OFFICE-BUILDING (CIRCA 1910) LOCATED ON TRIANGULAR CORNER BETWEEN BRANDENBURG GATE AND CHARITE HOSITAL, ONE BLOCK FROM WALL AND APPROXIMATELY QUARTER-MILE FROM UNTER DEN LINDEN BUSINESS DISTRICT. NEIGHBORHOOD A MIXTURE OF PRE-WAR APARTMENT HOUSES AND OFFICE BUILDINGS, SOME BEING RENOVATED AND OTHERS IN POOR REPAIR. BUILDINGS CURRENTLY HOUSES NUMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCIAL OFFICES INCLUDING AUSTRIAN TRADE CENTER,
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DELEGATION REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM,

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HUNGARINA AIRLINES, ETC. BUILDING IN NEED OF COMPLETE RENOVATION, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OF CARRYING LOAD FOR TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT. TWO APARTMENT HOUSES CONNECTED TO BUILDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR US USE IF SITE FOUND ACCEPTABLE.

B) CHARLOTTENSTRASSE 60 (BERLIN 1491)-IS FOUR-STORY OFFICE-BUILDING, CONSTRUCTED 1907, IN VERY POOR EXTERIOR REPAIR (INTERIOR NOT SEEN), LOCATED EAST OF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE NEAR CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. LOCATION IS SURROUNDED BY DILAPIDATED AND BOMED-OUT BUIDINGS. BUILDINGS IN NEED OF COMPLETE RENOVATION. BUILDING WILL ABUT ON PLANNED DIPLOMATIC APARTMENT HOUSE ENCLAVE WHICH IS IN EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. PRESENT OCCUPANTS ARE GDR MOTOR SPORT ASSOCIATION, SEGMENT OF GDR CULTURAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER MINOR GOVERNMENT CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS.

C) SCHADOWSTRASSE (BERLIN 1491- IS PROJECT SIX-STORY BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CORNER OF SCHADOWSTRASSE/ CLARA ZETKINSTRASSE JUST NORTH OF UNTER DEN LINDEN. BUILDING SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION JUNE 1974, IS AT PRESENT DESIGNED FOR MULTIPLE DIPLOMATIC OCCUPANCY. GDR HAS INDICATED THIS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION SHOULD US BE INTERESTED IN SITE, BUT IN ANY CASE, US WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SHARE SEGMENT OF BUILDING WITH OTHER TENANTS. BUILDING MIGHT MEET MOST US SPACE AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND WOULD PROVIDE BASEMENT PARKING AND GARAGING BUT HAS CLEAR REPRESENTATIONAL DISADVANTAGES, BEING LOCATED ON NARROW SIDE STREET NEXT TO GDR JUSTICE MINISTRY AND IN AREA IN WHICH CONSIDERABLE FURTHER CONSTRUCTION LIKELY.

D) FRIEDRICHSTRASSE (BERLIN 1502)-IS PRE-WAR FIVE-STORY BUILDING LOCATED ON NORTHWEST CORNER OF FRIENDRICHSTRASSE/FRANZOESISCHESTRASSE ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF UNTER DEN LINDEN. EXTERIOR OF BUILDING IN BAD CONDITION, INTERIOR WAS NOT OPEN FOR INSPECTION, MAKING ESTIMATE OF CONDITION IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT. FROM REPRESENTATIONAL STANDPOINT, BUILDING HAS CENTRAL AND MOST EASILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION. FLOOR PLANS ARE IN PROCESS OF REVIEW TO DETERMINE IF SPACE IS ADEQUATE.
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II RESIDENCE SITES

A) HENRICH-MANN-PLATZ RESIDENCE (BERLIN 1491) - IS NEWLY-RENOVATED, THREE-STORY HOUSE ON MEDIUM TRIANGULA LOT LOCATED IN ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF NORTH PANKOW, NEXT TO CEMETARY. ALTHOUGH HOUSE HAS SUFFICENT LIVING AND REPRESENTATIONAL SPACE FOR SENIOR OFFICER, IT IS NOT

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SUITABLE AS AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

B) ESPALANADE (BERLIN 1475)-IS DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE LOCATED IN RECENTLY CLEARED AREA IN SOUTH PANKOW. SOME TWENTY-FIVE THREE-FLOOR BOX-STYLE BUILDINGS WITH VERY POOR LAYOUTS ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION IN AREA. SEVERAL SERVE AS CHANCERIES FOR SMALL EMBASSIES (BELGIUM) AND SOME AS RESIDENCES (ITALIAN DCM). FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE REJECTED USE OF AREA.

C) SAMPLE APARTMENTS IN LARGE PRE-FABRICATED APARTMENT HOUSE ON FRANKFURTERALLEE CIRCA 2 KILOMETERS EAST OF DOWNTOWN. MOST APARTMENTS SHOWN WERE OF SUB-STANDARD SIZE. GDR SAID NO WALLS COULD BE BROKEN THROUGH, BUT NEW EXTERIOR DOORWAYS COULD BE BUILT TO JOIN TWO TOGETHER. GDR SAID FRANKFURTERALLEE BUILDINGS WERE UNAVAILABLE BUT PROMISED TO PROVIDE, IF ASKED, IDENTICAL TYPE APARTMENTS IN EARLY 1974 IN LICHTENBERG DISTRICT, ABOUT 4-5 KILOMETERS EAST OF CITY CENTER.

D) GDR ALOS OFFERED TO MAKE LARGER-THAN-STANDARD SIZE APARTMENTS AVAILABLE IN PLANNED DIPLOMATIC APARTMENT COMPLEX IN LEIPZIGERSTRASSE AREA ALONG WALL EAST OF CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLEX IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION 1974-75.KLEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN01526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KLEIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730958/aaaabqti.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR PROPOSALS FOR CHANCERY/RESIDENCE SITES
TAGS: PFOR, ABLD, GC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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